E. STUDY AREA ENVIRONMENTAL CHARACTERISTICS

Environmental characteristics of the Study Area were reviewed and documented in an Environmental Footprint to provide baseline information on the five-county Study Area. Significant environmental features in the Study Area (wetlands, streams and lakes, historic structures, schools, churches, cemeteries, industries, transmission lines and pipelines) are identified in Figures 9-19. This information was obtained through various federal databases.

Municipal Structures. A partial inventory of hospitals, schools, churches and cemeteries was created to identify the location of such structures in the Study Area. The majority of these structures located in populated places are excluded in Figure 9 for clarity purposes. Each set of structures is a subset of the nation-wide database- Geographic Names Information System (GNIS), and is not expected to be complete and comprehensive. (Source: ESRI Data and Maps CD Set).

Dams, Drinking Water, Water Bodies There are various dams and waterways located throughout the Study Area. (See Figure 10). Drinking water supply sites are found in populated places across the area. (Sources: U.S. EPA BASINS System; U.S. Bureau of Census, TIGER/Line Files 1999.)

Power Lines, Pipelines and Railroads The main pipeline for liquid petroleum gas and natural gas is located in northern Ripley County. (Source: U.S. Department of Transportation National Pipeline Mapping System.) Figure 11 shows this pipeline, as well as active and abandoned railroad lines and power transmission lines (high voltage electrical lines, on towers, situated on cleared right-of-way). (Sources: U.S. Bureau of Transportation Statistics, National Transportation Atlas Databases 2000; U.S. Bureau of Census, TIGER/Line Files 1999.)

Mineral Industries Figure 12 shows the location of mineral industries, Resource Conservation and Recovery Information System (RCRIS) sites and FCC/FAA regulated towers in the Study Area. Mineral industry locations include known mining operations, mineral deposits/occurrences and processing plants. RCRIS sites are located throughout the Study Area, mainly in populated areas. Towers can also be found scattered throughout the region. (Sources: U.S. EPA BASINS System; GIS Data Depot, Geocommunity.)

Soils. Figures 13 through 15 identify several types of soil in the Study Area including hydric, prime farmland and conditional prime farmland. These maps are of generalized detail soil survey data.

- ï **Hydric**-The hydric soil areas shown on Figure 13 are the percentage of hydric soils in the map unit (the sum of hydric components).
- ï **Prime Farmland**- Figure 14 shows the percent of the map unit that is unconditional prime farmland.
- ï **Conditional Prime Farmland**- Figure 15 shows the percent of the map unit that is prime farmland only in certain conditions including, only if drained, only when protected from flooding or not flooded during the growing season and only when drained and protected from flooding or not flooded during the growing season. (The sum of these three conditions is used to find the percentage of conditional prime farmland.)

Ripley and western Jefferson County have the greatest percentage of hydric soils and prime farmland soils. Ohio County, along the river, also has land with a high percentage of prime farmland characteristics. Ripley, western Jefferson and Dearborn Counties contain the greatest percentage of land categorized as conditional prime farmland. (Source: National STATSGO Database, USDA-NRCS Soil Survey Division.)

Wetlands. Wetlands are located throughout the Study Area. There is a concentration of wetlands in northwest Jefferson County, west of US 421. In Figure 16, a wetland point signifies the point locations of wetlands too small to digitize. Linear wetlands include rivers, streams, ditches and canals. (Source: National Wetland Inventory, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.)

USGS Landuse/Landcover. Much of the southern part of the Study Area is covered with evergreen forest land; whereas, the northern portion of the five-county Study Area is made up of deciduous forest land. (See Figure 17.) There are various other land uses scattered throughout the site including mixed forest land, cropland and pasture. Other land uses, such as residential, commercial and industrial facilities are found mainly in those areas that are populated. (Source: U.S. EPA BASINS System.)

National Register Listings. Within the Study Area there are four historic districts, which are listed on the National Register of Historic Places. These historic districts are located in Lawrenceburg, Aurora, Madison and southwest of Dillsboro. (See Figure 18.) The Study Area also includes 34 historic buildings and three historic structures. (Source: National Register Information System, National Park Service.)

Parks. The two areas shown in Figure 19, Versailles State Park and the Jefferson Proving Ground Military Reservation, located just west of the Study Area, are State managed land holdings. (Source: U.S. EPA BASINS System.) In addition to the managed areas, there are two State parks, Clifty Falls State Park in Madison and Versailles State Park. There is one local park in the Study Area (Liberty Park), located in Batesville. (Source: ESRI Data & Maps CD Set.)